

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25. 1742.

E hear it very often asserted, and a late angry Writer has laid it down as an indubitable Truth, That every Private Man has a Right to lay open whatever appears to him as a Blemish in any Publick Character, provided he believes that by doing so he can any way contribute to the Service of his Country.

If this should be accounted just, then, the Converse of the Proposition will appear to be, viz. That if any Private Man is sensible that any Publick Characters are injured by gross Negligence, it is his Duty to publish this, and to clear to the World as he can. Under a Sense of this, I shall venture to examine two of those which have been very strongly laid down to Persons now in Power, and shall offer what has occurred to me in Proof of their Falseness.

First, That the present Administration, by the use of the Sinking Fund, have departed from the Principles; and that we may infer from this Point, what Credit is due to their Administration.

Upon this observe, that those who lay this down, tend to insist on any positive or explicit Assurance given by the Persons they charge, That they came into Power, they would not, on any, or under any Circumstances, apply or mortgag the Sinking Fund; No, this is not so much as all the Evidence offered in support of this Charge, is this, That heretofore under very different Administrations, when a general Opinion prevailed that the Sinking Fund ought to be held sacred, and not to be applied to any Use but the Payment of the Publick Debts, they opposed the making use of it for the Service of the Year. This is, certainly, the true State of the Case; and upon it I shall only make two Remarks.

The first is, That when those who are now opposed the Application of the Sinking Fund, point out, whether that Fund was proper for their Power, and might be legally so applied? Now the Affirmative of this has been unanimously made out in the Treatise intitled, *The Case of the Sinking Fund*; and in consequence of the Arguments therein, that Fund had been frequently disposed of when these Gentlemen came into Power, and this a Point out of Dispute, and not a Point, as it was when they opposed it. My Second Remark, That tho' they might think it very inconsistent when they were perswaded of its Legality, to apply the Sinking Fund in a Time of profound Peace, yet in another Way might have been easily shown that this did by no means imply that they would be of the same Opinion, notwithstanding any of the Circumstances; or, which is the same thing, that they would hesitate at applying the Sinking Fund, if the Nation was distressed, and all the usual Ways of raising Money strained to the utmost Height. This applying the Sinking Fund being also a disputed Point, and no better Method proposed or left. As to the Difference of their Opinion, when they are supposed to have changed, it is altogether in their Favour, since by changing, they must be certainly the best Judges of the Utility of this Measure.

It has been insisted upon, that the War in the West Indies has suffered to sleep, that we seem to have forgotten the Maxim of *Take and hold*, and, that we have been assiduous in doing other Peoples Business, and neglected our own.

When we began that War, and it was when we were often wondered at hearing this said, considering that it had been taken already in that Part of the War.

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things that have fallen out since. We have now other Employment for our Fleets and Forces, Employment that in all Appearance concerns us as nearly, and which in all Probability will answer the End of a War in the West Indies, and compel the Spaniards to make such a Peace as may be agreeable to the Views upon which we enter'd into the War. At least, this may be in a great measure concluded from the Advice lately receiv'd from Spain, which say, that the only thing which retards a Peace with England is, our Firmness in respect to the Settlement of Don Philip in Italy; which is a full Proof, that the present Ministry are not so complaisant as to gratify her Catholick Majesty in any of her Views.

We have heard it thrown in the Teeth of some great Men, that tho' they have heretofore declared against Negotiations, yet they have boldly entered into Negotiations themselves.

We must always distinguish between the different Kinds of Negotiations, and between the Seasons in which Negotiations are set on foot. In answer to this Objection I shall only observe, that the Negotiations they hint at were entered upon with the universal Applause of the Nation, and were Negotiations the Nation had long called for, as well as directly opposite in their Nature to the Kind of Negotiations which the present Ministers, when out of Power, opposed. In this respect therefore, and I believe in every other, they have acted consistently, vigorously, and prudently. As to Success, it is not in the Power of Man; but if we consider how low the Credit of the Nation was, how perplexed our own Affairs, and how bad the general Situation of Europe, when those now at the Helm entered on the Administration, we ought rather to admire and thank them for what they have done, than to vilify or asperse them for not doing what never appears to have been in their Power.

## HOME PORTS.

*Plymouth, Dec. 21.* Yesterday came in his Majesty's Ship the *Bridgewater*, Capt. Frederick Rogers, from Lisbon, and brought in with him a Spanish Privateer of 20 Guns and 140 Men, which he took in the Bay. This Day came in the *Saphire*, from a Cruise.

*Poole, Dec. 22.* Wind S. S. W. Came in the Robert, Beef, the *Weston's Adventure*, *Weston*, and the *Sarah*, Reeks, all from Lisbon; the *John*, *Jandine*, the *Thomas* and *Mary*, *Pike*, and the *Mary* and *Barbara*, *Hauselber*, all from Newfoundland; and the *Hopewell*, *Rowe*, from Foy. Sailed the *Jane*, *Shank*, the *Richard* and *Sarah*, *Nickles*, the *Desire*, *Rose*, the *William*, *Thompson*, and the *Industrious Bee*, *Durell*, all for London.

*Southampton, Dec. 23.* Wind E. S. E. Since my last arrived the *Wilmington*, *Fry*, and the *John*, *Thoume*, both from Guernsey, and the *Clifton*, *Wadmore*, from Biddeford for Bremen.

*Dover, Dec. 23.* Wind S. W. Arrived the *Minerva*, *Cloed*, from Carolina, and the *Philip* and *Peter*, North, from Virginia. Came in the *Neptune*, *Burgh*, for Oporto, the *Ann*, *Mockham*, for Plymouth, the *Thomas* and *James*, *Blissen*, for Southampton, the *Lewis*, *Headly*, for Newhaven, the *Elizabeth*, *Osborn*, for Arundel, and the *Happy Return*, *Davis*, all from London; and the *Saint James*, *Owzell*, from Brest for this Place. Sailed the *Mary* and *Ellen*, *Dean*, for Waterford.

*Deal, Dec. 23.* Wind S. E. Remain in the Downs his Majesty's Ships the *Dover*, *Lynn*, *Dealcastle*, *Lyme*, *Greyhound*, *Fox*, *Industry* Tender, and all the Outward-bound as per list. Came down the *Budgen*, *French*, for Africa; the *Bleat*, *Fowler*, and the *Morecroft*, *Batty*, for Liverpool. Arrived the *Catherine*, *Egglestone*, from Nevis.

## Arrived

At Antigua, the *Charming Molly*, *Righton*, and the *Biddy*, *Tarleton*, both from London.

At Carolina, the *Hector*, *Rogers*, and the *Lawrence*, *Croftswire*, both from ditto.

At New York, the *Launceston Man of War*, *Captain Warren*, from Spithead, and the *Francis*, *Coolidge*, from London.

At Dartmouth, the *Dartmouth*, *Porter*, from Newfoundland.

## LONDON.

By Letters from Virginia, by way of Bristol, dated Nov. 5. there is Advice of the Death of the following Gentlemen; viz. of the Hon. William Randolph, Esq. one of his Majesty's Council; of Mr. Gooch, the only Son of the Governor, who was Naval Officer of York River; and of Capt. Heysham Randolph.

Yesterday the Charitable Legacy of the late William Tayleure, Esq. of Saville-Row, was distributed among

Ten poor House-keepers of St. James's Parish, being 50 l. apiece, without any Charge or Deduction whatsoever.

The same Day her Grace the Duchess of Montague set out for the Bath, in order to make use of the Waters there for the Recovery of her Health.

On Thursday last the Right Hon. the Countess of Sandwich was safely deliver'd of a Son, at his Lordship's House in Dover-street.

High Water this Day at London-Bridge.	Morning	Evening
	08 48	09 15

Bank Stock, 142 5-8ths to 3-4ths. India, Nothing done. South Sea, 111 3-4ths. Old Annuity, 114 to 1-8th. New ditto, Books shut. Three per Cent. Annuities, Books shut. Seven per Cent. Loan, Nothing done. Five per Cent. ditto, Nothing done. Royal Assurance, Nothing done. London Assurance, 11 5-8ths. India Bonds, 41 9s. to 8s. to 9s. Premium. Bank Circulation, 3 l. 12 s. 6 d. Prem. Salt Talties, Nothing done. Three and half per Cent. Exchequer Orders, 105. Three per Cent. ditto, 98. Million Bank, 116. Equivalent, Books shut.

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